

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF LODGE No. 31.

The United Industrious Lodge No. 31, Canterbury was formed in 1819 by the union of the two Lodges then existent in the City — the Industrious Lodge, whose number in that year, was 416, and Lodge 37, whose original number was 24. Documentary evidence of these two Lodges exists in the form of the Treasurer's account book of the Industrious Lodge; of the minutes of meetings of Lodge 24 from the year of its origin in Canterbury until its union with the Industrious Lodge in 1819, and of a complete record of the minutes of the United Lodge up to the present date.

The Industrious Lodge was warranted on November 28th 1776. by the Regular Grand Lodge known as the Moderns, and held its first meetings at the ^{ON THE PARADE} Fleece Inn. Its original number was 498; four years later it became 403; in 1781-404, and in 1792-326. This number it retained until the Union of the Two Grand Lodges, when it became 416 on the united rolls.

On March 24th, 1806, another Lodge was formed in the City under the Athol Constitution, its number being 24. This number originally belonged to a Bristol Lodge, which was warranted in 1753, and held its meetings at the Edinburgh Castle, Marsh ^{BRISTOL} Street, but which is stated to have lapsed about 1765. In 1813 the number of the Lodge in Canterbury became 37.

Both these Lodges in the City had considerable periods of prosperity, but by 1816 their membership had considerably fallen, and Lodge 37 suggested to the sister Lodge that they might profitably join forces "owing to the decline of Masonry in the City with the view that it would greatly benefit the Craft." This proposition was considered by the Industrious Lodge, but was not acceded to.

Three years later a joint meeting of the two Lodges was held to reconsider the matter, it was decided to form a union working under the Warrant of Lodge 37, and with the title of the United Industrious.

On April 8th 1819, the first regular meeting of the United Industrious Lodge was held at the Saracen's Head, now demolished.

In 1832, the number of the Lodge became 34, and in 1863 intimation was received from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, that the Lodge would in future stand on the registers as No. 31.

In January 1877, it was proposed, and carried: "That the Lodge cordially recommends that a Royal Arch Chapter should be attached to it."

About two years later permission for the members of the Lodge to wear the Centenary Jewel was granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, H. R. Esq. of the Prince of Wales. The Centenary Warrant, dated December 16th 1878, stating that the two parent Lodges had united in 1819 "with the authority of Grand Lodge."

In the same year the members of the three Canterbury Lodges, the United Industrious, St. Augustine and Royal Military, decided to construct a Temple on their premises at 38, St. Peter's Street, and on March 14th 1880, the foundation stone was laid by the Mayor, Worshipful Brother Hooney, a Past Master of Lodge 31.

On June 22nd, a Lodge was held by the Provincial Grand Master, the Viscount Rodmoredale for the consecration and dedication of the building to Freemasonry.

In 1926 our Provincial Grand Master, Col. J. S. W. Cornwallis was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Thursday, 2nd December, 1926 was the occasion of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the United Industrious Lodge, No. 31. Divine Service was held at Holy Cross Church previous to the opening of the Lodge and an address was given to the Brethren by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. the Rev. ^{LYCEST} Alfred Lycett, M.A. Rector of Chatham. The Provincial Grand Master of Kent, R. W. Bro. J. S. W. Cornwallis, Deputy Grand Master of England was present at the Lodge meeting, at which W. Bro. Henry Weston, ^{P. PROV. D.C. O.C.} E.M., and D.C. of the Lodge read a history of the Lodge. The verbatim reports of this paper and the address given at the Church are in the minute book.

In 1928 W. Bro. H. Biggleston presented the Lodge with a silver I.P.M.'s jewel which had come to him from his father, W. Bro. H. M. Biggleston, with the engraving, "W. Bro. Philip Biggleston, United Industrious Lodge, No. 31 commemorating ^{IVE} of the Installation of the Installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, April 28th 1875.

A member of the Lodge, W. Bro. H. Poble, T.D., B.A., F.R.G.S., was appointed by the Trustees, Prestonian Lecturer for 1932.

In April 1934 W. Bro. J. Amos, then Secretary, on the death of a Miss Pout, was given the jewel on the collar of the Secretary to-day. This is silver, and the date stamped on the jewel is 1785.

In April 1935 Bro. P. H. Archer, J.W., gave a recital on the organ presented by W. Bro. J. Amos and W. Bro. H. Biggleston. This organ was discovered in an Auction Sale Room at Jenterden. It came from the Old Meeting House at Jenterden which was turned into a place of worship when ~~Charles II~~ under the Act of Uniformity turned out King George. The cost to these two Brethren was ten pounds and this organ is dated 1789, and is in use in the Temple to-day.

On 26th September 1935 the Provincial Grand Master of Kent, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis passed away after a life of public service to Kent and the Country.

By his son, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, M.C., P.G.W., was appointed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master to be Provincial Grand Master of Kent in November 1935.

On Thursday, 7th May, 1936, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, Provincial Grand Master of Kent honoured the Lodge with his presence for the raising of Bro. Desmond Biggleston, son of the Treasurer, W. Bro. W. Biggleston P. Prov. J.G.W. The Provincial Grand Master presented W. Bro. Biggleston with the Centenary Jewel of the Lodge which had belonged to ^{Bro. B.} his grandfather, W. Bro. Henry Moss Biggleston.

On 1st October 1936 the Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, M.C., J.P., P.G.W. Provincial Grand Master of Kent, was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

The Cantuarian Lodge, No. 5733, was consecrated on Thursday, 25th May, 1938. This was instigated by Bro. Birley, a member of the Lodge and Headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury, and brought to fruition during the Headmastership of Bro. J. Shirley. W. Bro. F. M. Furley, P.A.G.D.C., was the first Worshipful Master. After Masonic Meetings were resumed permitted to be resumed in 1940, on ⁶⁻¹¹⁻¹⁹⁴⁴ one occasion the ^{Bro. R. F. JENYNS} Junior Warden was giving the charge in the first degree, when a particularly big "thump" from a bomb was heard. The brother continued with the charge, unperturbed. ← completely a big explosion from a ^{land mine} German.

Bro R. J. Scarff, P. Prov. G. Purst., an honorary member, was Tyler of the Lodge from 1922 to 1938 and again from 1940 to 1945. He and his wife were responsible for the catering at the Lodge from 1922 to 1938.

During the War the following brethren of the Lodge lost their lives ^{or were} Brothers D. D. Staff, B. Taylor, D. Biggleston

In 1947 some boxes of dried fruits, currants, sultanas and raisins were received from the ~~Bro. B.~~ Cardross Lodge, No. 2586 Australia and the Rakia Lodge, No. 31, New Zealand Constitution which is near Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand. These were much appreciated at a time of ^{IN THIS COUNTRY} scarcity of food, and were distributed amongst the Brethren.

* The following members who were initiated in the Lodge have received Grand Lodge Honours:— W. Bro. F. M. ¹⁹²⁴ Furley, P.A.G.D.C., W. Bro. W. M. Biggleston, P.A.G.D.C., in 1937, W. Bro. W. Westron, P.A.G.D.C., in 1943, ~~W. Bro. J. W. Ward, P.G.D.~~ W. Bro. S. J. E. S. Lamb, P.G.D., Asst. Dist. G.M. East Africa, W. Bro. W. P. Danton, P.A.G. Supt. Wks. 1961, W. Bro. W. H. F. Booker, P.A.G.D.C. in 1971 and W. Bro. V. W. B. Alexander, J.G.D., in 1976 ~~W. Bro. J. Ward, P.A.G.D.C. P.G.D.~~ W. Bro. J. Tomlinson G. Steward in 1968

In 1954 two members of the Lodge, W. Bro. F. M. Furley P.A.G.D.C., and W. Bro. J. A. D. Reade P. Prov. S.G.B., celebrated the 50 years as members, unfortunately Bro. Reade was ill, and the Wm Sec. visited him during the evening, on which they were honoured.

Joe who died in

One Brother who served the lodge with great loyalty over a period of 49 years was WBro. J. M. B. Young, P. P. M. J. G. W. ^{Age 70} for the last 28 years of which he was the Treasurer of the lodge. A Treasurer's Book from 5th May, 1853 until 3rd September, 1959 is one of our many possessions.

On 5th Feb 1975 WBro. M. Barker, P. A. G. D. C. celebrated 50 years a member of the lodge, and at the February on 6th Feb. 1975 he was presented with a silver ^{GILT} goblet, suitably inscribed, to mark the occasion. → appointment appointed to

In December 1975 our P. G. M. the Rt. Wm. Bro. L. C. was to of the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry

On 7th Jan 1976 W. Bro. M. P. Denton, P. A. G. Supt. Wko., celebrated 50 years a member of the lodge, and on 8-1-76 he was presented with a silver gilt goblet, suitably inscribed, to mark the occasion.